

VZCZCXR07575

OO RUEHDBU RUEHGA RUEHHA RUEHIK RUEHMT RUEHPOD RUEHPW RUEHQU RUEHSL
RUEHVC RUEHYG
DE RUEHOT #0642 2322040
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 202040Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9771
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS OTTAWA 000642

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PHUM AF CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PRAISES AFGHAN ELECTIONS

¶1. (U) In remarks to reporters in Pangnirtun, Nunavut on August 20, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said that "what is taking place in Afghanistan is remarkable" and praised the 2009 Afghan elections -- "warts and all," noting the inherent difficulties involved in elections in a country that had gone through "thirty years of civil war" and "without any real history of democratic governance." He especially lauded the contributions of Canadians -- military, diplomats, and development workers -- to the electoral process, along with other allies.

Visit Canada's North American partnership community at
<http://www.intelink.gov/communities/state/nap/>

HOPPER